Dear Js, 9/3/72

Please do not take this as either a hint or a priority matter. It if for when you are at your tape place, an inquiry.

There are reasons why when I am home I keep the TC 40 by the phone. It is my only dependable machine. I have an excellent Wollensak stereo in need or repair I can't get made (to 7" reels, 1 7/8 to 7 1/2), two worn out Concord/reel-toreels, to 5", and the not heavily used VOM (Norelco) cassette machine so well tended to by the feebeses. I use the latter to tape from the air and to play to the TC40 what I (air) dub. It is not too bad on playback, it is helpful on reminds and fast-forwards, but when it records, there is always a him. It has made more trips to the factory than I have with it. They seem not to be able to get this him out.

I found some of the info in the tape I made tonight from CBS Campaign 72 interesting on The Watergate Caper worth keeping because I have not seen it elsehwere. But I'm not even trying to dub it for you. Instead I am sending the original, which you may not want but may want to hear, for unhurried return.

So, when you can, what I'd like to know is for the future, if it is possible, twhich of the inexpensive cassettte machines is more likely to hold up best. One can get them here from time to time for as little as $22.50, usually for $25.00. Then I can keep one at the TV and hifi it and when it is fixed. It would be good to know which, recalling JDW's warning about different voltages, etc., is more likely to permit direct dubbing with the TC 40 so that tapes can be heard without listening to them and without requiring silence while they are being dubbed. If it is unlikely that I'll be able to get one for at least a while, especially given our present more than usually depressed state, it would still be good info to have in the event it becomes possible.

Even less likely but still good to know is which of the inexpensive am/fm/cassette machines with built-in recording is more likely to hold up. There are not too often radio things hereabout worth taping, but it does happen, and it would be good to be able to listen to some of the news when all one would have to do is push a button to tape instantly. This TV show, for example, will be rebroadcast by radio and the quality with direct record should be much better.

It might also be good to know if an inexpensive one permits taping without listening. I have in mind such things as congressional hearings that are sometimes broadcast by the local public radio FM station which has an excellent signal here. I have never heard of any not broadcast at a time when I wouldn't take time from other things to listen, during the daytime. So, this could be an advantage but it is by no means essential because, while we are in a fringe area, there are places I cut put the machine, close the doors, and not be listening to it.

There is no rush on returning the cassette. I also made and will hold until I hear from you a 1/2 hour show of Gary Hart being interviewed, as indicated in the memo. I have no interest in the Hart but it might give you a bit of the flavor of the man. No rush on letting me know. I've got a dozen good for-reserve Sony tapes and more than that cheap ones still on hand for such things as this. Enough so that with them on sale for 47¢ here now I'm not buying any. This is one of them from last sale.

Isuppose I really could use the TC 40 for taping from the air if I were sure what was coming was worth it. But if I need it at the phone, that inevitably will be more important so I just keep it by the phone, enever knowing is the wasteland will light up.

I missed just a bit of the opening of the show on this Campaign 72 show, but none of the content. I had to try <u>eight times</u> before the needle indicated it was really recording! Then first time on side 2 and ditto on Hart with next cassette. Whoever did it knew his business!

Hope you've got a good vacation coming up! Best,